

## Saying More with Less

*"The best writing is rewriting."*

—E.B. White

**W**hen preparing manuscripts for consideration by editors of the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*, most authors are thorough in their explanations, and we value this. But we also value economy.

The *JID* can best serve its community by publishing concise articles that contain all the essential information, but without that which is unnecessary or repetitive. This goal is good exercise, because it allows authors to distill a message to its fundamentals, and it results in better articles.

Thanks to an economy of words, a sonnet may express more in 14 lines than is communicated in an 800-page novel. So, too, a well-written original article may express in 4 pages what the long-winded article says in 8 pages. A well-thought-out figure can summarize what would take paragraphs to explain; likewise, a good figure does not require paragraphs of explanation.

To promote economy and to allow more investigators to publish their work, the *JID* editors will begin to impose word limits on the articles published in the journal. This is not meant to restrict authors' ability to communicate with our audience, but rather to allow the journal to provide its readers with more value per page.

Briefly, our new guidelines, which will be instituted for all new and revised submissions on 1 January 2010, are as follows:

- Original articles should not exceed 3,500 words and 6 figures or tables—not to exceed 7 printed journal pages.
- Letters to the Editor should not exceed 1,000 words, 2 figures or tables, and 15 references—not to exceed 3 printed pages.
- Word counts include text only; the abstract, references, figure legends, tables, and supplemental data are excluded (note that figure legends are limited to 125 words each, and 500 words of article text may be exchanged for 1 figure or vice versa).
- There may be exceptions, which will be handled at the discretion of the Editor.
- Submissions that do not comply with these guidelines will be returned to the authors for revision.

Expect to see more articles—and more succinct articles—in future issues of *JID*.

**Paul R. Bergstresser**, Editor



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*"If you were to boil your book down to a few words, what would be its message?"*

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